AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a form including a plurality of layout items that define the presentation of data, said method comprising:

displaying simultaneously a logic view, a property view, and a layout view,

the logic view including nodes representing the layout items and display labels, associated with the nodes, indicating structure information of the form, the position of the nodes defining a processing order of the layout items,

the property view displaying properties of the layout items, and

the layout view displaying the layout items in their positions in the form;

selecting a layout item in one of the logic, property, and layout views;

displaying the layout item as selected in one of the views ~~not~~ other than the view in which the layout item was selected;

modifying the selected layout item in one of the views; and

creating a form definition document based on the modified selected layout item.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

reflecting the modifications to the selected layout item in one of the views in which the modification was not made.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein modifying the selected layout item comprises:

modifying the position of a layout item in the logic view, thereby changing the processing order.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the logic view comprises a tree view, and wherein the nodes are tree nodes.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the ~~branch~~tree nodes include condition nodes to process layout items according to logical statements.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein modifying the selected layout item comprises:

verifying the compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of a business application.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein creating a form definition document based on the modified selected layout items comprises:

generating a form-printing program; and

calling the form-printing program by a business application to print a final document based on the form definition document.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein selecting a layout item in one of the logic, property and layout views further comprises:

highlighting the selected layout item in at least one additional view.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for defining the format of a form having a plurality of layout items defining the presentation of data of a business application, said system comprising:

a display for simultaneously providing a logic view, a property view, and a layout view,

the logic view including nodes representing the layout items and display labels, associated with the nodes, indicating structure information of the form, the position of the nodes defining a processing order of the layout items,

the property view displaying properties of the layout items, and

the layout view displaying the layout items as the layout items;

interaction means for receiving an input from a user selecting a layout item in one of the logic, property, and layout views and modifying the selected layout item; ~~and~~

display means for displaying the layout item as selected in one of the views other than the view in which the layout item was selected; and

storing means for creating a form definition document from the modified layout item.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising

verification means to verify the compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of the business application.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having computer program code instructions for creating a form including a plurality of layout items that define the presentation of data, the computer program instructions causing a processor to execute

the following steps:

displaying simultaneously a logic view, a property view, and a layout view,

the logic view including nodes representing the layout items and display labels, associated with the nodes, indicating structure information of the form, the position of the nodes defining a processing order of the layout items,

the property view displaying properties of the layout items, and

the layout view displaying the layout items as the layout items will appear in the form;

showing a layout item as selected in one of the logic, property, and layout views in which the item was selected;

displaying the layout item as selected in one of the views other than the view in which the layout item was selected;

modifying a selected layout item and the processing order through interaction with a user; and

creating a form definition document from the modified layout item.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to provide the logic view as a tree view showing the processing order, the tree view including a root node, a plurality of branch nodes, and a plurality of leaf nodes.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to provide the logic view

showing a branch node as a condition node to process the layout items based on logical statements.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to execute the step of

modifying the processing order through user interaction to change a position of tree nodes.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the computer program code instructions cause[s] the processor to verify a compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of the business application.

31. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the nodes are shaped according to their function.

32. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the tree nodes are shaped according to their function.

33. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the nodes are shaped according to their function.

34. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the nodes are shaped according to their function.